

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6254

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 11222

LIMDIS

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TAGS PFOR OAS CU CO

SUBJ: FORNMIN'S COMMENTS ON CUBAN SANCTION ISSUE AND OAS

1. THE ISSUE OF CUBAN SANCTIONS AND THE OAS CAME UP IN A CONVERSATION WITH FORNMIN LIEVANO DEC 19. AS HE HAS IN THE PAST, LIEVANO STRESSED THAT THE CUBAN SANCTIONS QUESTION HAD TO BE QTE SOLVED UNQTE SOON FOR THE SAKE OF THE INTERAMERICAN SYSTEM; IF THE MATTER IS NOT PUT TO REST IT WILL ALWAYS BE A DIVISIVE ISSUE THAT WILL CLOUD AND CONTORT FUTURE INTERAMERICAN MEETINGS OR INITIATIVES.

2. ARGUING THAT THE SANCTIONS ARE NOW MEANINGLESS AND THAT A CONSENSUS SHOULD BE ACHIEVED TO LEAVE EACH MEMBER AT LIBERTY TO RENEW DIPLOMATIC OR COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH CUBA, THE MINISTER EXPRESSED HIS OPINION THAT THE MARCH BUENOS AIRES MEETING OF FORN MINS SHOULD BEGIN A PROCESS TO RESOLVE THE MATTER. HE SUGGESTED THAT AT BUENOS AIRES THE MINS BRIEFLY CONSTITUTE THEMSELVES AS THE ORGAN OF CONSULTATION UNDER THE RIO TREATY AND TAKE A DECISION ON VOTING REQUIREMENTS UNDER RIO TREATY, I.E. AGREE THAT A MAJORITY VOTE MAY LIFT SANCTIONS. THIS WOULD IN EFFECT PLACE THE ALREADY AGREED UPON REFORM MEASURE INTO OPERATION. NO FURTHER ACTION NOR ANY DISCUSSION OF THE CUBAN ISSUE NEED THEN BE TAKEN BY THE MINISTERS, AND THE PERMANENT COUNCIL COULD FOLLOW UP BY CONSIDERING

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A SPECIFIC RESOLUTION ON CUBAN SANCTIONS IN WASHINGTON. SUCH A

TACTIC, LIEVANO SAID, WOULD ALSO OBTAIN THE NEED TO GRAPPLE NOW WITH THE THORNY QUESTIONS OF WHETHER CUBA SHOULD BE INVITED TO BUENOS AIRES OR WHETHER THE SPECIFIC ISSUE OF CUBAN SANCTIONS SHOULD BE DEBATED. NEITHER NEED OCCUR.

3. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION AS TO WHETHER LIEVANO HAD CONSULTED WITH OTHER MEMBERS ON THIS TACTIC, HE SAID HE HAD NOT BUT PLANNED TO. HE ASKED ME TO PASS THESE THOUGHTS TO THE DEPT FOR ITS INFO AND CONSIDERATION. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT HE PLANNED TO ANSWER IN WRITING THE SECY'S LETTER ASKING FOR HIS VIEWS ON POST-QUITO DEVELOPMENTS. I URGED HIM TO DO SO.

4. WHILE THE IDEA OUTLINED BY LIEVANO IS NOT AN ORIGINAL ONE, I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS THE DEPT MAY WISH TO MAKE AS TO ITS FEASIBILITY OR OUR REACTION TO IT. VAKY

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